

## Bi-annual Report of Activities and recommendations Lebanon



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### LEBANON RELIEF PROJECT



**March 2021**

ATFL Beirut Desk  
Lebanon Relief Project  
People to People Aid Corp

## Introduction

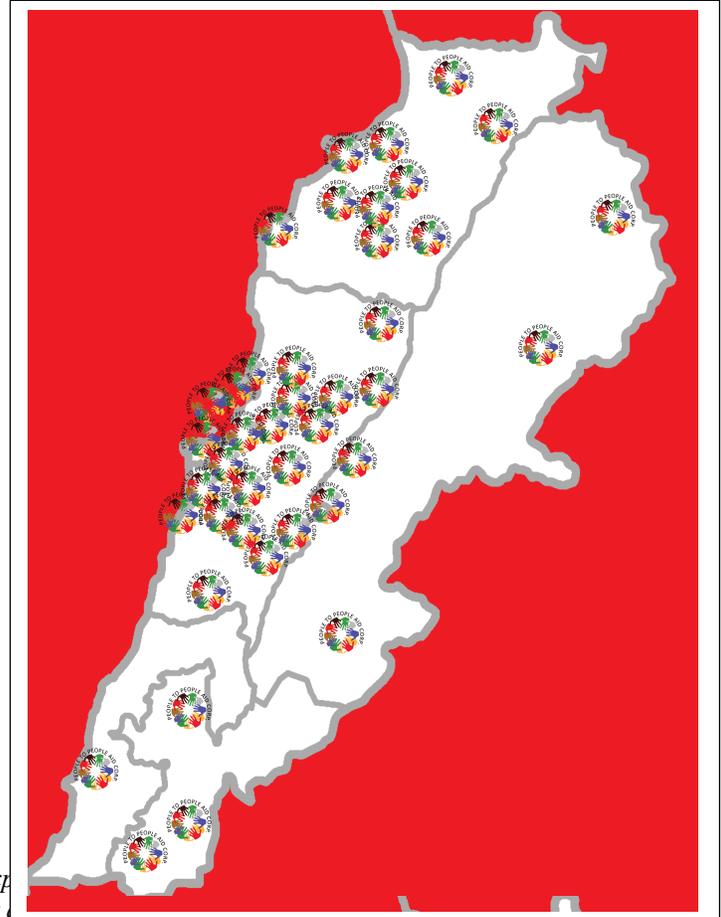
Since August 10, 2020, the beginning of our mission to assist Lebanon with Emergency Relief efforts after the devastating Beirut blast, we have been working diligently and efficiently to support the Lebanese people in their daily living struggles in general with a focus on healthcare and capacity building via:

- Replenishing the inventory and supplies for several Beirut hospitals that have been tragically affected by the blast
- Assessing, allocating, and distributing medications and other supplies to hospitals all over Lebanon
- Receiving and distributing PPE's throughout the country to community health centers, municipalities, and frontline NGO's
- Distributing donor driven medical equipment and COVID related respiratory machines
- Funded and installed 15 ICU beds in several hospitals
- Conducting special missions involving food distribution, tuition aid assistance, and direct cash contribution to very poor and marginalized families
- Supervising and assisting US based NGO's in the clearance and delivery of their humanitarian aid to their targeted recipients
- Analyzing, evaluating, supporting, and coordinating activities and missions between several local societies with common purpose
- Initiated and devised a strategy for national vaccination plan consolidating private donors (work in progress)
- Funded and opened a min food store in [El Mina , Tripoli](#) containing mostly basic food supplies such as Rice, Lentil, sugar, milk, tuna, oil, tomato paste, spaghetti, and chees as well as hygiene items.

## Results

We have collected and distributed more than \$32 Million of humanitarian aid and our delivery reached more than 50 hospitals and community health centers located all around Lebanon from the far north to the far south, as illustrated by this map, reaching a diversified list of recipients:

1. Karantina Hospital
2. Sin El Fil Municipality Clinic
3. Batroun Public Hospital
4. Kbayyat Community Health Center (Syrian border)
5. Albour Kesserwan Public Hospital
6. Tanoureen public hospital
7. Abdelli Community Health Center
8. Rmeych Community Health Center (Israeli border)
9. Ajjalouna Health Clinics (North of Lebanon, Tripoli)
10. Deyr essalib Psychiatric Hospital
11. Al Kaa Community Health Clinic
12. Ayn Ebel Health Center
13. Yahchouch Women and Child Health Center
14. Baabda General Hospital
15. St. George Hospital
16. Karantina Neighbor Benefits
17. Jaytaoui Neighbor Benefits
18. AUB Medical Center
19. LAU Hospital
20. Bellevue Hospital, Nasrieh
21. Halba Public Hospital
22. Al Haykal Hospital, North
23. AL Hariri Hospital
24. Batroun Municipalities
25. Hamad Farhat Hospital, Bekaa El Gharbi
26. Ain w Zain , Chouf
27. Al Jabal Hospital
28. Al Iman Hospital, Alay
29. Hamana Municipality and Civil Defense
30. Sadr foundation, Sour
31. Orthozox Senior Citizen Home, Mina Tripoli



32. Senior Citizen Home, Abu Samra Tripoli
33. Sayedet Zgharta Hospital
34. Abu Jaoudeh Hospital
35. Jeitaoui Hospital
36. Notre Dame de la paix, Qbayat
37. Ouardieh Hospital Beirut
38. Saint Charles Hospital
39. Beit Eshabab hospital
40. Baakline Community Health Center
41. Chouwayfat Municipalities
42. Red Cross
43. Civil Defense Beit Merry
44. Civil Defense
45. Hemlyn Hospital
46. Tripoli Public Hospital
47. Al Aziz Covid Center, Akkar
48. Bahnnes Hospital
49. Lebanese Armed Forces
50. Hamana Police Unit
51. CCCL St Jude AUB
52. Al Mounia poverish communities
53. Beirut Karentina community
54. Burj Hamoud Neighborhood
55. Baakline Echouf senior Neighbors

By reaching the above recipients, we had served a population of more than one million people. In addition, we have created and achieved humanitarian assistance programs from food boxes donation to tuition assistance, rent payment, and sponsoring treatments for patients with extreme poverty. Our outreach has expanded way beyond the above to include the following list of organizations that we continue to closely work with:

- Ajjalouna
- Care Association
- Fondation El Tawarek
- Lebanon's Angels
- Lebanon Needs
- Live love Beirut
- Maronite League
- Nabatieh Student House Association
- Pills Donors LB
- Rania El Bort
- Rise Lebanon
- RMF Foundation
- Sanabel Ennour
- Sokoun
- Volunteers Together

## **Observation**

- **Macro financial instability**
  - A deteriorating currency which has devalued by more than 80%
  - Hyperinflation reaching 120% with food costs highest in the MENA region
  - Central Bank USD reserves are being depleted and are not being replenished
  - Insufficient foreign exchange reserve to support subsidies for basic raw materials and essential foods, medicines, and fuel
  - Increased M2 supply to support government spending, spurring more inflation
  - Record high income and wealth inequality
  - Depleted values of pension income and plans
  - Flagrant mismanagement of the Lebanese Treasury leading to an astronomical public debt
  
- **Rudimentary infrastructure**
  - Dysfunctional electrical supply with the real risk to fully stop within six months or less
  - Inadequate waste management
  - Water supply shortages
  - Slow reconstruction of the main port and wheat silos affected by the blast
  
- **Political Impasse**
  - Impotent caretaker government
  - Divided parliament
  - Daily local clashes and demonstrations
  - Cuts in public sector wages
  - Corrupt political system
  - Failed consociational form of Democracy
  - Lack of public policies that benefit the people
  - Flagrant repression of freedom of expression
  - Politicians are scrambling for ways to hang on power
  
- **Prevalent and growing poverty**
  - a. More than 50% of the population live below the World Bank poverty level
  - b. Minimum wage decreased to less than \$50 per month lowest in the world!
  - c. Statistics place Lebanon among the countries with the highest level of income inequality
  - d. Current circumstances downgraded the majority of the Middle Class to poor
  - e. False wealth and net worth value of large and small dollar account depositors
  - f. Insignificant funding of social welfare

- **Diluted Education and Health services**
  - Collapse of educational systems at all levels, neglect of public primary education
  - Discrepancies of tuition payments at private higher education institutions due to currency fluctuations
  - Weak national vaccination plan
  - Deteriorating public health services
  - Mismanagement of resources
  - Diminishing medications inventory

### **Annotation**

Lebanon status is no longer a tragedy in the making, it is a catastrophe that is affecting the nucleus of the population of all facets from rich to poor, elite to illiterate, except the Lebanese delusional executive politicians who have been managing the country for the past few decades. Their malignant power-sharing elite policies and actions have harmfully impacted the national arena in ways that no one foresaw possible. And, if they claim anything positive, they did not demonstrate anything significant enough to thwart the current tragedy. The amazing fact is that all of them still have a significant, although dwindling, loyal following; however, their power sharing arrangements that chaperoned the country forward is no longer working as greed and nepotism got in the way, yet, its methodology doesn't seem to be collapsing!

Lebanon of yesteryears as the home of a democratic governance, populated with resourceful and affluent middle class is no more! The latest economic deteriorating events had wiped the middle class and degraded them to poor as well as had forced the young and brightest to flee seeking opportunities elsewhere. Today, the banking crisis and the collapse of the Lebanese pound have, in real terms, decreased the purchasing power by 80% making life for many, simply, unaffordable! In addition, freedom of speech is being blatantly repressed. Naturally, such conditions will not last longer than a few months. We are afraid that if there are no immediate actions that have been taken internally by the civil society or international bodies, the country will emerge in civil conflict, sacrificing the lives of rich and poor for the benefits of the ruling oligarchy. We have a responsibility to prevent that from happening.

**Brief pragmatic recommendations of today are based on four pillars:**

1. Create and fund alternative systems
  2. Infiltrate the current system
  3. Unite and empower the street
  4. Fund and support SME's
- By creating alternative systems to the basic social services that a sovereign government is supposed to provide, we would offer the populace a tactical substitute to reduce their reliance on old methods, focused on clientelism, and to eventually eradicate it.
    - Providing food and medicine
    - Encouraging sustainable education at all level
    - Reducing the currency's unfounded fluctuations by introducing alternative digital currency supported by humanitarian cash dollar based aid

**Outcome:** serving the people Social Safety Net

- By indirectly assisting current governing bodies whether it is a caretaker government minister or a parliamentarian through supporting their mission, we would intelligently sway their decisions to the right direction; that is what others are doing, but unfortunately, not necessarily for national benefit rather for their own. The majority of the current caretaker government ministers today are soft loyalists.
  - Prioritizing and working on nationally important issues
  - Controlled funding to impactful actions
  - Involving citizens leading to collective national decision making

**Outcome:** reestablishing trust

- Through coherent coordination under common objectives, we can help unite the street also under a consistent front while offering the opportunity to all to finetune their methodology as well as supporting Civil Society
  - Support newly emerging political parties
  - Amalgamating civil society efforts resulting in strengthening their missions
  - Filtering through the worthy political views

**Outcome:** consolidating scattered ideas and diligent efforts

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- The basic economic activity that can reignite the thrust of the Lebanese society is to occupy it with its core and passionate activity of “making money.” Quick and emergency funding of legitimate small and medium businesses via cash grants targeting their business reorganization and development will transform their lives into active members of the society keeping them out of the streets
  - Establishing a venture fund to invest in the equity of promising SME’s; thus helping them to sustain their business
  - Granting smaller cash investment to be spent specifically on organizing their business formally
  - negotiating with a global e commerce platform such as Amazon, ali baba and co investing to create a special service offer for Lebanon based businesses

**Outcome:** creating ample employment opportunities as well as formalizing grey market businesses